THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The standard of Education in KVs has improved in last three years which is reflected from the performance of the students in the CBSE examination in Xth and XIIth Grades. This is due to the stress on accountability, improved academic supervision and deployment of teachers as per requirements.

Catering in Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express Trains

†*188. SHRI RAMA SHANKAR KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers are being cheated even in Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains, in respect of catering; and

(b) if so, the agency involved in such acts of cheating and the action taken by Government against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Safety Measures in Railways

*189. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has accorded top priority to passengers' safety;

(b) if so, whether Rs.2000 crore have been spent during the current fiscal year for the purpose;

(c) whether a panel had recommended that Rs. 15,000 crore should be spent on safety measures in a period of seven years, but Government have decided to spend Rs. 17,000 crore in five years; and

(d) if so, details of the amount that has been utilized so far, passengers safety?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Safety is accorded highest priority in train operation and steps for enhancing safety are a continuous process on Indian Railways.

(b) Allocation for Safety is made under various planheads, which include Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Rolling Stock replacement, Workshop Modernization, Road Safety Works—Level Crossings and — Road Over/Under Bridge and Signalling and Telecommunication infrastructure. The total expenditure during the current fiscal year (upto January 2002) under these plan-heads has been more than Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) Railways Safety Review Committee in Part-I of their report had recommended that Central Goverment should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 crores to Railways so that arrears in renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signal gears are wiped out within a fixed time frame. Accordingly a non-lapsable Special Railways Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores has been set up to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets within a fixed time frame of 6 years. The amount has been enhanced to Rs. 17,000 crores in order to take care of inflationary cost during the 6 year period.

(d) The Special Railway Safety Funds has been set up during the year 2001-2002. A total outlay of Rs. 1400 crores has been provided for the current years. The approximate expenditure during the current year upto January 2002 has been about Rs. 950 crores. The details of the expenditure from SRSF till January 2002 are as given below:

Sl. No.	Plan head	Approx. expenditure till January 2002 (in cr. of Rs.)
1.	Track Renewals	780
2.	Bridge Works	40
3.	Signal and Telecommunication	120
4.	Rolling Stock	10
	TOTAL	950